



HOUSTON★CHRONICLE

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WORLD

Trump goes off script on Asia trip

After a week of measured discipline in Asia, President Donald Trump goes off script with a stream of tweets aimed at Kim Jong Un, Hillary Clinton and “haters and fools.” **Page A10**



Houston Chronicle

President Donald Trump enjoys a beverage at a gala dinner in the Philippines.

IN MEMORIAM

Liz Smith, 94, was queen of tabloid gossip

Gossip columnist Liz Smith, a native Texan whose mixture of banter, barbs and bon mots about the glitterati helped usher in the era of celebrity journalism, has died. **Page B5**

BUSINESS

Beer maker has big project on the way

Buffalo Bayou Brewing Co. is preparing to break ground on a \$14 million brewery and restaurant in Sawyer Yards, just south of I-10 near downtown. **Page B1**

STAR

Harvey's gone, but trauma lingers in some

All over Houston, Harvey survivors are complaining about muddling dates, weeping at small frustrations or being vexed by insomnia. **Page D1**

SPORTS

Rockets whip Pacers, push win streak to 6

James Harden leads the way with 26 points and 15 assists as the Rockets blow out the Pacers for their sixth straight win. **Page C7**



Houston Chronicle

James Harden had it going Sunday in Indianapolis.

Tragic impact of domestic violence

Attacks show how such crimes aren't isolated to families

By St. John Barned-Smith, John D. Harden and Keri Blakinger

The mass shooting in Sutherland Springs last week left America shocked, searching for a cause, something to explain the brazen slaughter of 26 people as they prayed.

They wondered what could have possessed Devin Patrick Kelley, the 26-year-old disgraced airman identified as the shooter, to act with such cruelty.

One factor that surfaced early in the investigation — a chaotic past of domestic abuse and violence — has proved all too common in Texas in recent years.

Domestic violence cases have risen sharply across the state, with more than 210,000 wives, girlfriends, husbands and others suffering death or injury at the hands of a family member in the past two years.

More than 550 wives or girlfriends were killed by a domestic partner between 2012 and 2016, according to state figures.

“We continue to underestimate the reach and devastation of domestic violence,” said Gloria Aguilera Terry, chief executive of the Texas Council on Family Violence. “Domestic violence thrives in the silence and obliviousness we give it. Only when we confront the very conditions which allow domestic violence to exist will our homes, public spaces and places of worship be truly safe.”

For Stephanie Johnson, the explosion of violence last Sunday in Sutherland Springs felt all too familiar.

Johnson's daughter was found dead last year in her ex-husband's Galveston County home, weeks after vanishing on her way to pick up her son.

Johnson had watched her daughter suffer for years.

“When she went missing, I knew immediately

Shooter continues on A6

“We have the freedom to choose, and rather than choose darkness as one young man did that day, I say we choose life.”

Frank Pomeroy, pastor who lost his 14-year-old daughter



Eric Gay photos / Associated Press

Sutherland Springs First Baptist Church has been transformed into a memorial to the 26 victims.

Hundreds join town in mourning



The church has drawn numerous people offering flowers and prayers for those killed and injured in the worst mass shooting in Texas history.

At Sutherland Springs church service, pastor shares heartache, preaches power of faith, love to overcome evil

By Sig Christenson and Jasper Scherer

SUTHERLAND SPRINGS — A week after a former Air Force enlisted man killed 26 worshippers in the worst mass shooting in Texas history, the pastor whose teenage daughter was among the victims called on more than 700 people to choose love.

“This past weekend our country was attacked, our state was attacked, our church was attacked,” Sutherland Springs First Baptist Church Pastor Frank Pomeroy told the standing-room-only crowd Sunday. “We celebrate and remember the veterans who fought and died so that we can have freedom in this country.

But last weekend, men, women and children also fought and died for the freedom we have here this morning. We have the freedom to proclaim Christ. Folks, we have the freedom to choose, and rather than choose darkness as one young man did that day, I say we choose life.”

The service, held in a large white tent on a baseball field under heavy security, had the feel of an old-fashioned revival. Those on hand, some among them from Seguin, New Braunfels and San Antonio, joined locals from the Sutherland Springs area as a band played gospel music. Cheers and shouts of “Amen!” echoed around

Service continues on A6

Energy plan benefits Trump donor

Critics call Perry's proposal raising coal, nuclear plants' rates a bailout

By James Osborne

WASHINGTON — The Ohio coal magnate Robert Murray had a problem.

Coal prices were near historic lows, and the prognosis for coal min-

ing companies, including Murray Energy, was only going to get worse as their best customers, coal-fired power plants, closed across the country. Murray, a prominent supporter of President

Donald Trump, turned to the president, urging him to declare an emergency across the electric grid that would prevent any more coal plants from closing, according to a letter Murray sent to the White House in August.

Less than two months later, Energy Secretary Rick Perry, whose failed

2012 presidential campaign received a six-figure contribution from Murray and his employees, released a controversial plan to raise electricity prices paid to coal and nuclear plants. The proposal falls short of the emergency declaration sought by Murray, analysts said.

Coal continues on A8



Shwan Mohammed / AFP/Getty Images

An earthquake Sunday sent many injured residents to a hospital in Sulaimaniyah, Iraq. More than 140 people have been reported killed in Iran and Iraq.

Powerful quake kills scores, hurts hundreds in Iran, Iraq

Power outages, darkness hamper rescue efforts

CHRONICLE NEWS SERVICES

TEHRAN, Iran — At least 140 people have been killed in a 7.3-magnitude earthquake that struck the border between Iran and northern Iraq, officials in

Iran's Kermanshah Province said early Monday.

The death toll is expected to rise as a spokesman for Iran's Interior Ministry said rescue efforts in the mainly Kurdish region could only begin properly after sunrise.

The quake's epicenter was in a remote mountainous region of Iraq, some 125 miles northeast of Baghdad

and 250 miles west of Tehran, according to the U.S. Geological Agency.

An aftershock of magnitude 4.5 was registered shortly after the quake struck late Sunday and was followed by another aftershock in the early hours of Monday measuring 4.7.

Rescue teams were sent to the Kermanshah town

Quake continues on A8

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